



Citizens Clean Elections Commission

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CITIZENS CLEAN ELECTIONS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES 2005 OFFICEHOLDER EXPENSE ACCOUNT RULES & LIMITS

PHOENIX, Ariz. (March 16, 2005) – The Citizens Clean Elections Commission (Commission), a state agency that administers the Citizens Clean Elections Act, would like to remind candidates and contributors about the officeholder expense account rule. The rule applies to all candidates who wish to raise and spend money for officeholder related expenses.

“The officeholder expense account rules are designed to allow participating candidates to raise and spend money on office related needs, and to allow nonparticipating candidates to make office related expenditures without triggering matching funds for their opponents in the 2006 election,” said Autumn Southard, voter education manager, of the Citizens Clean Elections Commission. “In order to comply with this rule, an officeholder must establish a committee with the Secretary of State’s office that is specifically designated for officeholder expenses.”

Elected officials who have previously set up an officeholder expense account may reuse a previously established account only if the name of the account reflects the officeholder’s current term. These committees are held to the same campaign finance reporting requirements as regular candidate committees. In the event an officeholder expense account committee is not established with the Secretary of State’s office, any expenditure made on behalf of the officeholder will be considered 2006 campaign activity.

“It is important these guidelines are followed because a candidate running as a participating campaign can inadvertently exceed their 2006 election cycle early contribution limits,” added Southard. “Additionally, a candidate running a traditional campaign may inadvertently trigger matching funds for their opponent.”

Term January 2003-April 30, 2006

| Office | Spending Limit |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| Governor | \$92,880 |
| Secretary of State | \$47,640 |
| Attorney General | \$47,640 |
| Treasurer | \$23,820 |
| Superintendent of Public Instruction | \$23,820 |
| Mine Inspector | \$11,900 |

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Term January 2001-April 30, 2006

| Office | Spending Limit |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Corporation Commission | \$23,820 |

Term January 2005-April 30, 2008

| Office | Spending Limit |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Corporation Commission | \$23,820 |

Term January 2005-April 30, 2006

| Office | Spending Limit |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Legislature | \$5,960 |

Officeholders may raise money by collecting \$60 from individuals or by providing personal money. There is no limit to personal money contributions as long as it, combined with any individual contributions, does not exceed the spending limit.

Permissible Uses of Money:

- Expenditures for office equipment and supplies.
- Expenditures for work-related travel.
- Donations to tax-exempt charitable organizations.
- Expenditures to meet or communicate with constituents.

The money must be raised, spent and the benefit from the expenditure received by April 30, 2006. Any money received after April 30, 2006 is considered a regular campaign expenditure. For more information about Officeholder Expense Account please visit the **Citizens Clean Elections Commission Act, Rules and Policies Manual** at www.azcleanelections.gov

About the Citizens Clean Elections Commission

The Citizens Clean Elections Act, which was passed by voters in 1998, created a new campaign financing system that provides full public funding to qualified candidates who agree to abide by Citizens Clean Elections Commission guidelines. Candidates for statewide and legislative offices are eligible to participate in the public funding program.

To qualify for funding, participating candidates must adhere to strict spending and contribution limits and gather \$5 qualifying contributions from constituents who are registered voters. Participating candidates also agree to attend required debates.

For more information visit the Citizens Clean Elections Commission website: www.azcleanelections.gov

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